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Motion for 10% faculty and staff wage increase passes at Friday faculty meeting

By MAGGIE REYNOLDS
Local Editor

A motion urging the administration to raise faculty and staff wages by 10% across the board passed during the college's monthly faculty meeting on Friday, April 8.

The motion passed overwhelmingly in a vote of 156 to 12. A proposed amendment to the motion prioritizing employees at the lower end of the income bracket was voted down 59 to 103 after a contentious debate over the amendment among faculty.

The Middlebury Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) introduced the so-called "Campaign for 10%" at the September 2021 faculty meeting following discussion of the loss of real income among faculty and staff.

The AAUP wrote in an email to faculty that they, "urge the administration to provide all employees with a cost-of-living

adjustment to wages and salaries of no less than 10% this summer, thereby restoring the living standards of College employees to their 2019-2020 level."

Consumer prices have risen 11.3% since the beginning of the 2019-20 academic year, while college wages and salary have only risen 2% over that same period, the email said. In inflation-adjusted terms, real wages have fallen 8.3% since 2019-20.

Tanya Byker, professor of economics and member of the Faculty Resources Committee, said at the faculty meeting that the current strategic and budgeting decisions of the Board of Trustees make it impossible to maintain real wages. The board requires a balanced budget, a cap on the endowment draw, tuition increases less than inflation and unchanged revenue at Monterey, all of which make the cost-of-living adjustment seem unattainable.

"[However], budgeting decisions are just that — they are choices. It is not technically impossible to ensure that our real wages do not fall," Byker said. "We have differing opinions about which of these levers can or

should be pulled, but we agree that there is enough money to keep the employees of this institution whole."

Byker added that a number of professors in the Economics Department concur that there is more room to draw from the endowment for a wage increase.

Sarah Stroup, professor of political science, said that while the proposal suggests a blanket 10% increase in wages, it should prioritize faculty hired in the past four to five years, who might be facing substantial wage stagnation or decline.

Though all faculty and staff have felt the wage struggles over the past five to 10 years, faculty at the assistant or associate professor level have seen a small increase in real wages, while tenured faculty have seen a decrease in real wages, said Michael Olinick, professor of mathematics and president of the Middlebury AAUP, in response to Stroup's point. Byker agreed that full professors are falling further behind peer liberal arts colleges, more so than associate or

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Middlebury Muslim Students Association's prayer space desecrated during Ramadan

By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

Early in the morning of Saturday, April 9, an unknown individual, or potentially multiple individuals, poured urine outside of the Muslim Students Association's (MSA) prayer space in Forest Hall while two members of the group were inside. The individual or one of the individuals returned shortly afterwards and attempted to forcefully enter the prayer space,

according to an email sent to the members of the MSA. The students inside the prayer room remained safely inside for the duration of the aggression.

The attack comes while the Muslim community is observing Ramadan, a month-long celebration focused on community, prayer and reflection. The timing of the incident indicates it was a targeted act characteristic of the discrimination, bias and violence that Muslims face due to Islamophobic attitudes.

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



By CYNTHIA CHEN '22

A jazz performance at WOMP. Go to go/photooftheweek to submit your own photo of the week.

AS SUGARING SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE, SUGARMAKERS REFLECT ON SYRUP PRODUCTION OVER THE YEARS

By JULIA PEPPER
Local Editor

The month of April marks the end of a standard sugarmaking season in Vermont — the weeks when Vermont's maple syrup producers tap their trees, collect sap and process it for syrup.

The season typically lasts from the end of February to early April. This year's sugaring season was similarly warm to last year's season but had a less extreme temperature range, according to Tim Hescok, a co-owner of the Trade Winds Farm in Shoreham with his wife, Lorraine

Hescok.

"This year, I'd say we had a colder winter than within the last few years," Hescok said.

For optimal sugaring conditions, the ground under the maple trees must freeze at night and thaw during the day. This year's season was somewhere between a few days and a week shorter than is typical because cold temperatures delayed the start of the season. But this season was also warmer than in years past, with many nights not reaching freezing. Hescok said that while seasons have gradually

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Middlebury to introduce half-credit courses beginning fall 2022

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
News Editor

Starting in the fall of 2022, Middlebury will offer half-credit courses, which will either run at full strength for just the first or second half of the semester or run at "half-strength," meaning that the class will meet more infrequently than usual classes throughout the entire semester.

The courses may not be used to fulfill distribution requirements, but departments or programs choosing to offer them may use them for their major or minor requirements as they see fit. Half-credit courses are intended to be stand-alone experiences and may not be used as required components of other courses.

Thus far, five half-credit courses have been created for the fall: Reading Islamic Sacred Texts, Early Daoist Texts, Unlearning Colonial Habits, Experiential Learning Capstone and Mathematical Problem-Solving.

Professors can assign half the amount of work that they would assign in a full credit course. Credit is linked to the course, not the individual students, and all students in a given course earn the same amount of credit. Students may not "downshift," as Morrison put it, mid-semester from a full-credit course.

"I think there's a certain number of pages of analytical essays that students write for me in the course of the semester, and I'm teaching one of these courses in the fall, and I'm just planning on sort of cutting it down the middle," said Elizabeth Morrison, associate professor of religion and member of the Educational Affairs Committee (EAC). "So we meet for half the time, and we ask them to do the same amount of

reading for any given session, but there will be fewer sessions, and then half the amount of writing."

The EAC first proposed the idea in the spring of 2021. They worked with the SGA Academic Affairs committee to gain student input and consulted with Student Life Deans.

In an email to The Campus, Morrison said there are two main goals for the new program: "encouraging curricular innovation and experimentation and increasing equity and opportunity for students."

"It seems like a less intimidating alternative. Like I would never sign up for a full physics course, but if I was interested in taking physics, if there was a full semester half-strength course that would get me some exposure to it, I'd be more open to it," Agnes Roche '24.5 said.

Half-credit courses will provide an opportunity for students to "catch up" on course requirements. Morrison said

roughly one in 15 first-years and sophomores drop to a three-credit term every fall and spring term. Morrison hopes that this will improve equity for students who do not come in with AP/IB courses or cannot afford summer courses.

Students will also be offered half-credit independent studies, which Morrison said will allow professors to teach a variety of topics that they might not have previously had enough content to use for a full credit independent study.

The rule still remains that first years may not take more than four credits in a given semester, and sophomores and juniors must obtain permission from their advisor before enrolling in courses bearing more than four credits in total. Seniors do not need permission to enroll in

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ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Half-credit courses will be introduced this coming fall. Thus far, five half-credit courses have been created for the fall: Reading Islamic Sacred Texts, Early Daoist Texts, Unlearning Colonial Habits, Experiential Learning Capstone and Mathematical Problem-Solving.

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Reel Critic: "The Price of Safety"
By JACK TORPEY

I recently had the opportunity to attend a screening in Dana Auditorium of "The Price of Safety," a documentary feature about racially biased policing in the nearby...

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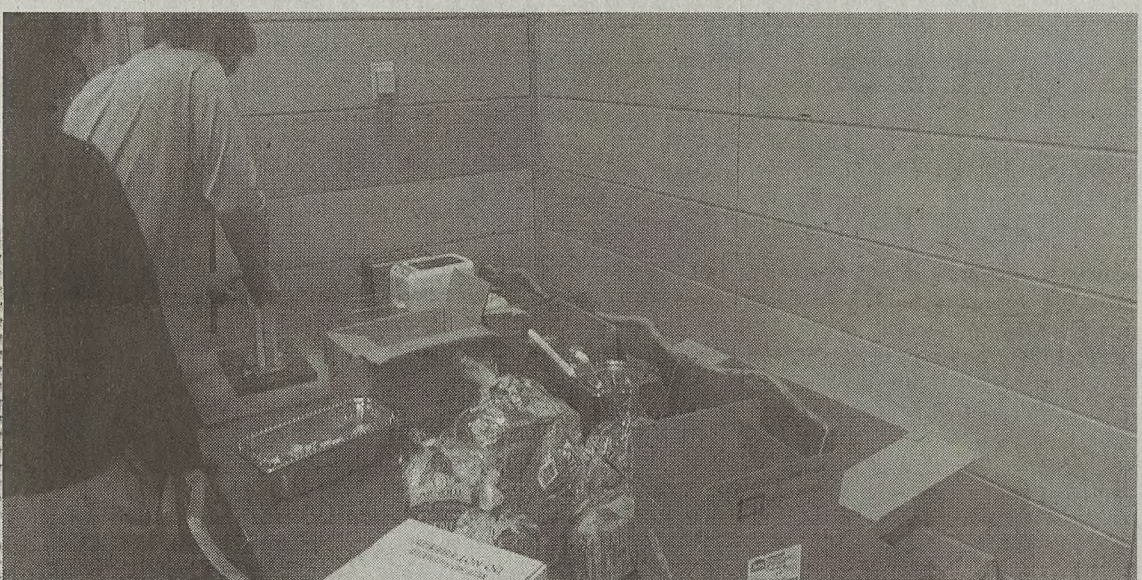
SPORTS

On a Roll: No. 1 ranked women's lacrosse improves to 12-0
By CHARLES CROUNSE

John Collins '23.5 sets the standard for men's baseball
By LEXI LINAFELTER

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TEN O'CLOCK ROSS RETURNS TO THE FIREPLACE LOUNGE



ABIGAIL CHANG/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

TOP: Students socialize and eat in Fireplace Lounge during 10 o'clock Ross. MIDDLE: Students choose cereal, granola bars, juice and other snacks. BOTTOM: Bagels, bread and spreads are also available.

By BEN WAGNER
Staff Writer

For the past two weeks, from Sunday to Wednesday, 150 to 400 students have trekked over to Ross' Fireplace Lounge to enjoy the recent return of 10 o'clock Ross, which serves cereal, bagels and drinks from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m.

The program was reinstated by SGA Senators Noah Vogel '25 and Orlando Caceres '25, and builds off of programs in previous years when Ross was open past 8:30 p.m. Caceres said that while the new 10 o'clock Ross shares a name with the old one, in many ways, it is an entirely new program. In the newest iteration, bagels, jam, juice and to-go snacks are available to students.

According to Vogel, the program is working on obtaining more options in the future but is happy to have gotten off the ground with a limited selection.

Originally, the students hoped The Grille would serve free food at night. However, Dan Detora, executive director of dining services, told them to look into bringing back 10 o'clock Ross instead.

Some students are unhappy about the limited availability of 10 o'clock Ross.

"I think [the limited days of operation are] certainly not optimal," Josiah Durfee '25 said in an email to The Campus. "Night hunger doesn't dissipate on Thursday and Friday. In fact, the end of the week can sometimes be crunch time and when I need that extra cookie for fuel."

An earlier iteration of 10 o'clock Ross used to be open on weekends, but the program ran into issues with intoxicated students. Those problems are part of the reason the program is now only open Sunday through Wednesday.

Weekend-night chaos caused issues for the morning dining hall workers, and led to negative sentiments about the program. In their quest to ensure the program's viability, Caceres and Vogel have attended every night of 10 o'clock Ross thus far to make sure everything runs smoothly.

"Soon, we're now gonna start letting the workers kind of take over the show. We just want to be there to also support them," said Vogel. "We're very intentional of not wanting to be a burden to Ross."

10 o'clock Ross takes place at Ross

Dining Hall rather than Proctor or Atwater because of a unique setup that allows workers to open up just the Fireplace Lounge, which has a kitchenette for storage and prepping, without exposing the full kitchen to student use or keeping an extra building open.

According to Durfee, the program fills an essential need on campus.

"Whenever students would get hungry at night, they would usually have to acquire food through external, expensive means; stocking up on snacks at the store or going to Midd Xpress. Now, they can utilize the meal plan to a fuller extent and fill the niche of late-night snacking, saving money and time," Durfee said.

According to Caceres and Vogel, reviews of the program have been overwhelmingly positive.

Durfee told The Campus, "I love it. I'm a night owl and often get hungry around 11 p.m. Not having to spend money at Midd X[press] or keep food in my room that I will quickly finish is quite nice."

Students explained that the program also provides a crucial social space.

"10 O'clock Ross brings friends together on those early tough nights of the week when people are really grinding," Captain Rudolph '23.5 said. "When you walk in, there are smiles ready to greet you. It's super essential for the Middlebury community."

Durfee only ever spends about 10 minutes in the Lounge as he rolls through to grab a bagel.

"I didn't expect it to be [a social space], but it kind of is. There are always people there talking/eating together, which definitely cultivates a sense of place and social scene," he said.

Currently, no motion has been made in SGA to ensure the program continues in the future. Caceres explained that the debates have not been about substance, but about pay. Food and wages paid to the student workers who operate 10 o'clock Ross are funded by a combination of Ross Dining Hall, the SGA and college administration. Caceres told The Campus that his hope would be to pay these employees \$15 an hour, in line with a recently passed SGA resolution to raise the student worker minimum wage. However, the Student Employment office told the organizers they could not pay that high of a wage while all other student wages are capped at \$13.22 per hour.

Motion for 10% faculty and staff wage increase passes at Friday faculty meeting

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assistant professors.

President Patton addressed the salaries of senior leadership during the meeting, noting that all senior leaders have taken between a 10% and 20% pay cut during the pandemic while faculty and staff have stayed whole in their wages. Patton said she remains committed to continue paying senior leaders fairly, but that senior leaders know that the administration is prioritizing the lowest paid staff.

"We have been very explicit about reducing the number of folks in the administration, combining positions and so on," she said.

Rebecca Bennette, professor of history, said that Middlebury's wages are 14% higher than other institutions for executives, but a couple of percentage points lower for professors, so a 20% decline in payment for senior leaders does not really address the issue.

Jon Isham, professor of economics and environmental studies, introduced an amendment to the original 10% motion aimed at addressing how a uniform 10% increase might use college resources unevenly. Isham said he and other proponents of the amendment listened to the people who wrote in the staff issue of The Campus and talked about how excruciating it is to work at the lower end of the pay scale; he said that adding a phrase to

the motion for those who make the least takes nothing away from other faculty.

Isham's amendment read, "The faculty urge the administration to provide all employees, prioritizing those who earn less than \$70,000, with a cost-of-living adjustment to wages and salaries of no less than 10% this summer, thereby restoring the living standards of College employees to their 2019-20 level."

The only proposed change from the original motion was the addition of the phrase "prioritizing those who earn less than \$70,000."

Colleen Norden, systems and communications specialist in the CTLR, and Tim Parsons, landscape horticulturist, expressed their support for the amendment in an email to the Middlebury AAUP on March 31.

"Inflation disproportionately affects about the first \$70,000 of earnings (and those who earn less), so using an inflationary argument for an across the board raise is a bit questionable," Norden and Parsons wrote.

Norden added that the inflationary argument is problematic because many people's largest asset is housing, but inflation does not have a direct relationship to housing costs. As a result, inflationary rent increases are more significant for those who rent their homes.

"[Those] who make over \$100,000 a year are asking for a transfer of wealth from Middlebury College to themselves and trying to justify it through their position's market status and inflation calculations," she wrote

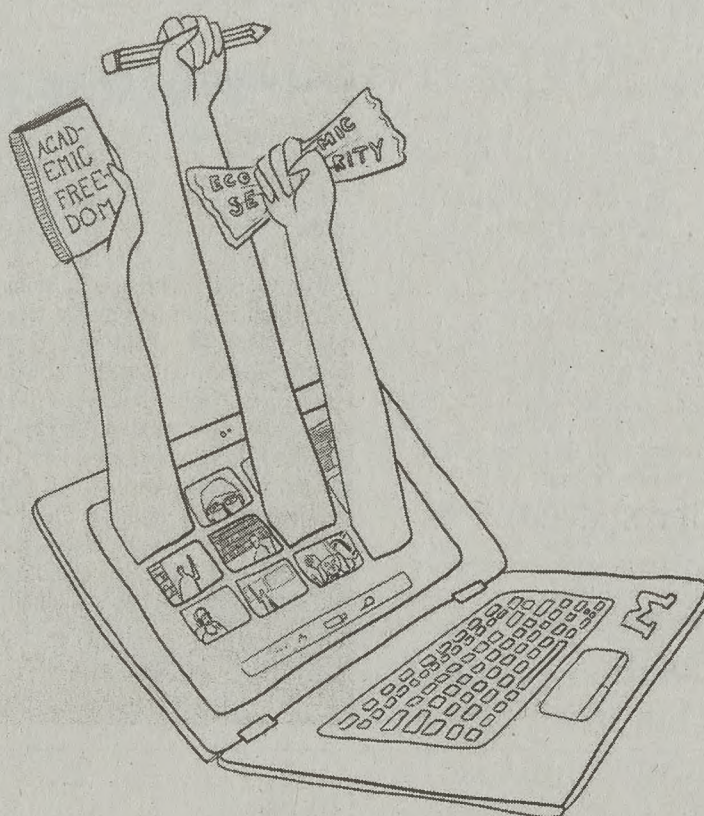
in a follow-up email to the Olinick.

Some faculty members had a different reaction to Isham's proposed amendment. Olinick said there is nothing in the original motion preventing the college from going beyond the suggested wage increase of 10%, but the first step is to restore real wages to where they were before the pandemic.

Jamie McCallum, professor of sociology, said he believes the proposed change would be an annihilation of the motion, rather than an amendment to the motion. "The idea that we should somehow restrict ourselves because of a wage disparity is a way to negate the problem we are actually talking about."

Following the April 8 vote that passed the original motion and rejected the amendment, Norden clarified the intent of the \$70,000 provision in an email to the AAUP. "An inflationary adjustment of 10% applied to the first first \$70k of all employees' wages or salaries is a more accurate approach that acknowledges the increasingly discretionary nature of income above that point for anyone," Norden wrote. "There is no distinction between employee type."

While faculty hope that the passage of the motion will force President Patton's and the Board of Trustees' hand on the issue of wage stagnation, Patton concluded the meeting by stating that she has been, and will continue to, prioritize faculty and staff wages. "I have been relentless in making them a priority in this budgeting season as well as in futures," Patton said regarding wages.



MADELINE JOINNIDES

FIRE creates outdoor recreation opportunities for BIPOC students



Sunset paddle on Lake Dunmore in Fall 2021 during the first FIRE kayaking trip.

PHOTOS COUTESY OF KAMRYN YOU MAK

By **SABRINA SALAM**
Contributing Writer

While sitting in her Conversations with Environmental Icons class last spring, Kamryn You Mak '23.5 began to feel sad and frustrated with the exclusivity and elitism surrounding outdoor and environmental culture at Middlebury. You Mak decided to create Fostering Inclusive Recreation Experiences (FIRE), an organization dedicated to making outdoor recreation a more accessible and inclusive space for students of color.

FIRE first began as a subgroup of Middlebury Mountain Club but has since branched out into its own organization.

According to You Mak, FIRE's mission is to "create a safe, supportive community of and for black, indigenous, and people of color outdoor recreators. FIRE's goals are to engage people who have been historically and presently excluded from dominant

outdoor and environmental culture, increase representation on Middlebury's campus of BIPOC recreation and foster connections between people and the natural world."

FIRE hosts a variety of different activities every semester. These activities include hikes, kayak trips, weekly climbing affinity hours, ski lessons, fishing and more.

Elise Chan '24, another FIRE leader, said that there is no cost associated with events and transportation is provided. There is also no experience required.

"We just want people to show up with themselves and be ready to participate and have fun," she said.

FIRE does not assume anyone's level of outdoor knowledge, and leaders always start with the basics. They provide the necessary equipment and explain the essentials of the activity of the trip. In their newsletter, they also encourage their members to visit the Gear Room — where students can borrow outdoor gear for free — to utilize the resources available to all students on campus.

"Outdoor recreation is

something that is often passed down from generation to generation, so the knowledge is only being shared in certain circles," Chan said. This, for her, is why FIRE is so important — members are able to use their peers' knowledge to help them learn more about outdoor recreation, something that would otherwise be harder because of the "inherent risks that come with outdoor recreation."

While many students in outdoor

organizations have previous experience with the activities, for FIRE, it is often members' first time camping, hiking or kayaking.

You Mak and Chan welcome students to join whether they are interested in leading trips, going on a trip or looking for other ways to get involved. They are always looking for new members.

"My vision for FIRE is to create a self-sustaining and supportive community for students of color to

become more confident in their place in environmental work and outdoor culture. I hope people can develop their skills and reach points where they are confident in their own experience and leadership skills," You Mak said.

Students can get involved by visiting go/bipocrec to visit their Presence page and sign up for the newsletter. They also announce upcoming events on their Instagram @midd.fire.



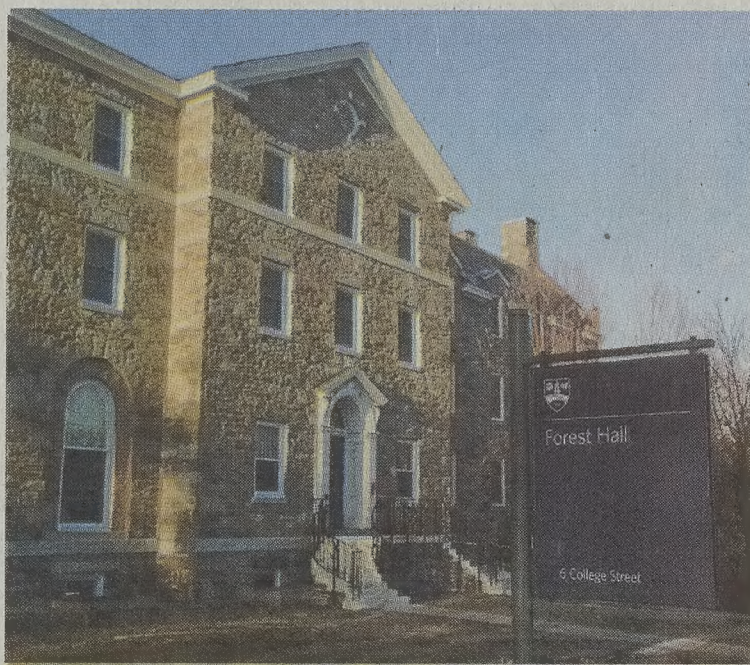
Middlebury Muslim Students Association's prayer space desecrated during Ramadan

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In a school-wide email, the Community Bias Response Team (CBRT) and Dean of Students Derek Doucet condemned the defilement of the religious space.

"The desecration of a space that is dedicated for prayer is an abhorrent violation not only of our institutional values but also of basic human decency."

"Muslims face discrimination, bias, and violence in a myriad of ways, and these kinds of incidents trigger the fear and belief that Muslims are unwelcome, are other, and do not deserve safety and dignity. The desecration of a space that is dedicated for prayer



COURTESY PHOTO

The Islamic prayer room is located in Forest Hall.

is an abhorrent violation not only of our institutional values but also of basic human decency," they wrote.

Public Safety is currently investigating the incident and welcomes anyone with information about what happened to contact their office at (802) 443-5133.

MSA leadership does not feel that there is any imminent

physical danger to group members. Recognizing the emotional and psychological impact of the assault, the CBRT's email encourages those who need it to access campus resources at the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life, MiddTelehealth and the Centeno House Counseling Center.

Middlebury to introduce half-credit courses beginning fall 2022

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SGA Director of Academic Affairs who provided student input to the EAC.

Although half-credit courses won't change the overall credit system, it will provide more flexibility for course enrollment for students.

Some departments will be able to use this opportunity to expand elective offerings, and departments with more rigidly defined curricular sequences will be able to contribute to more placement choices within their offerings.

"I think that this would allow for more flexibility with STEM classes that are harder or longer because, I don't know, just like a light version of the class could be cool. Maybe it could also help you space out pre-med requirements better," Hayden Hunsakor '23 said.

As registration approaches, Morrison encourages students to be on the lookout for the half-credit courses, which she hopes will continue to expand after this semester. Such courses will be listed under a half-credit modality on BannerWeb.

classes bearing more than four credits in total. Unlike adding a fifth course, however, there is no GPA requirement for enrolling in classes bearing 4.5 credits in total.

The topic first emerged when the EAC was discussing Middlebury's credit system. As opposed to some larger universities, which give different courses different amounts of credits, often depending on the number of hours a course meets for, Middlebury gives the same amount of credit per class.

"I had stated that many students in STEM — I am a [Molecular Biology and Biochemistry] major — would be interested in receiving more than one credit for courses with a lab component just because the time requirement in those courses typically exceeds seven to nine hours a week per course. However, this idea wasn't included in the passed half-credits proposal," said Priya Kaur '22, the

HOPE expands reach with new mobile refrigerator

By AUDREY PEIKER
Contributing Writer

HOPE, a Middlebury-based organization that operates one of the largest food shelves in the region, recently purchased a mobile refrigerator unit to help them continue to serve Addison County.

HOPE, which stands for Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects, aims to "improve the lives of low-income people in Addison County, Vermont, by working with individuals to identify and secure the resources needed to meet their own basic needs," according to their website. The organization provides housing, utility, medical, dental, and job-related assistance and has been serving Addison County since 1965.

The new refrigerator is 144-cubic-feet (four feet by six feet) and can be hitched to a pickup truck

owned by the organization. The fridge is a Polar King model and was purchased for 28,000 dollars, according to The Addison County

[HOPE operates] one of the largest food shelves in the region and provides housing, utility, medical, dental, and job-related assistance.

Independent.

Funding for HOPE's purchase of the fridge was obtained via two grants through Salvation Farms in Morrisville. Salvation Farms is a key part of the Vermont Gleaning Collective, an association of organizations across Vermont that glean crops after harvest, preventing

food that is still good from going to waste. HOPE is one of a few members of the collective. As reported in The Addison Independent, the collective hopes to create a system where local communities are fed more and more by local farms through surplus crops.

One of the grants used to purchase the fridge came from the Hannaford Charitable Food Foundation, the other from an environmental project fund bankrolled by a fine charged to the Chittenden Solid Waste Management after they were found to have improperly dumped glass in 2018.

Anna Freund, HOPE's food programs coordinator, told The Campus that "the mobile refrigerator was purchased to help us increase food access in Addison County. It will allow us to safely hold off-site food distribution events." Previously, the organization had to use unwieldy coolers to transport fresh food to events, according to The Addison Independent.

Freund hopes the fridge will make transportation smoother.

"It will also be helpful in transporting delicate crops from farms to HOPE and other sites," Freund said. HOPE plans to use the trailer

The collective hopes to create a system where local communities are fed more and more by local farms through surplus crops.

to serve the outer areas of the county that were previously difficult to stock with food, like Addison County's southeastern and northwestern regions.

Although food distribution locations are still being determined, HOPE aims to have accessible delivery locations, for example

schools or town offices, delivered to at regular times so locals can schedule a visit to the fridge into their routines.

The refrigerator is also designed for delivering food to residents who cannot themselves travel to HOPE's central location due to health and transportation challenges.

The fridge also provides additional storage for fresh produce that HOPE harvests during the warmer months.

Other than the trailer, HOPE is focusing on offering food education events and hopes to tailor those to young adults.

After decades of serving the community by providing food that residents had to make trips to get, the fridge marks an exciting turning point and expansion for the organization. According to The Addison Independent, it's believed that HOPE is the only anti-poverty organization in Vermont that is currently transporting food to those who need it with a mobile refrigerator.

AS SUGARING SEASON COMES TO A CLOSE, SUGARMAKERS REFLECT ON SYRUP PRODUCTION OVER THE YEARS

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been warming during his years of sugarmaking, it was different for his older siblings and parents.

"When I was a kid it was still kind of like this — we had years where it was really warm. But I do think about before that, like for my older siblings or my parents, there definitely were harder winters," Hescok said. These warmer seasons, as well as more extreme fluctuations in temperature throughout the season, seem to be related to climate change.

Ben Seeley, whose parents and grandfather founded Sugar Seeley Works in Middlebury, is also part of a long sugarmaking tradition. Seeley said that sugaring has been affected by changing weather in recent decades.

"Ten years ago, it would start to warm up and then we would have good sugaring weather for maybe a month, if we were lucky. Once it warmed up to about 60 degrees at night, sugaring would be done in April," Seeley said. "In the last few years, it's been extremely cold in February, then it will warm, and stay that way for a few weeks. This year, we had a three or four week season, and the weather fluctuated a lot."

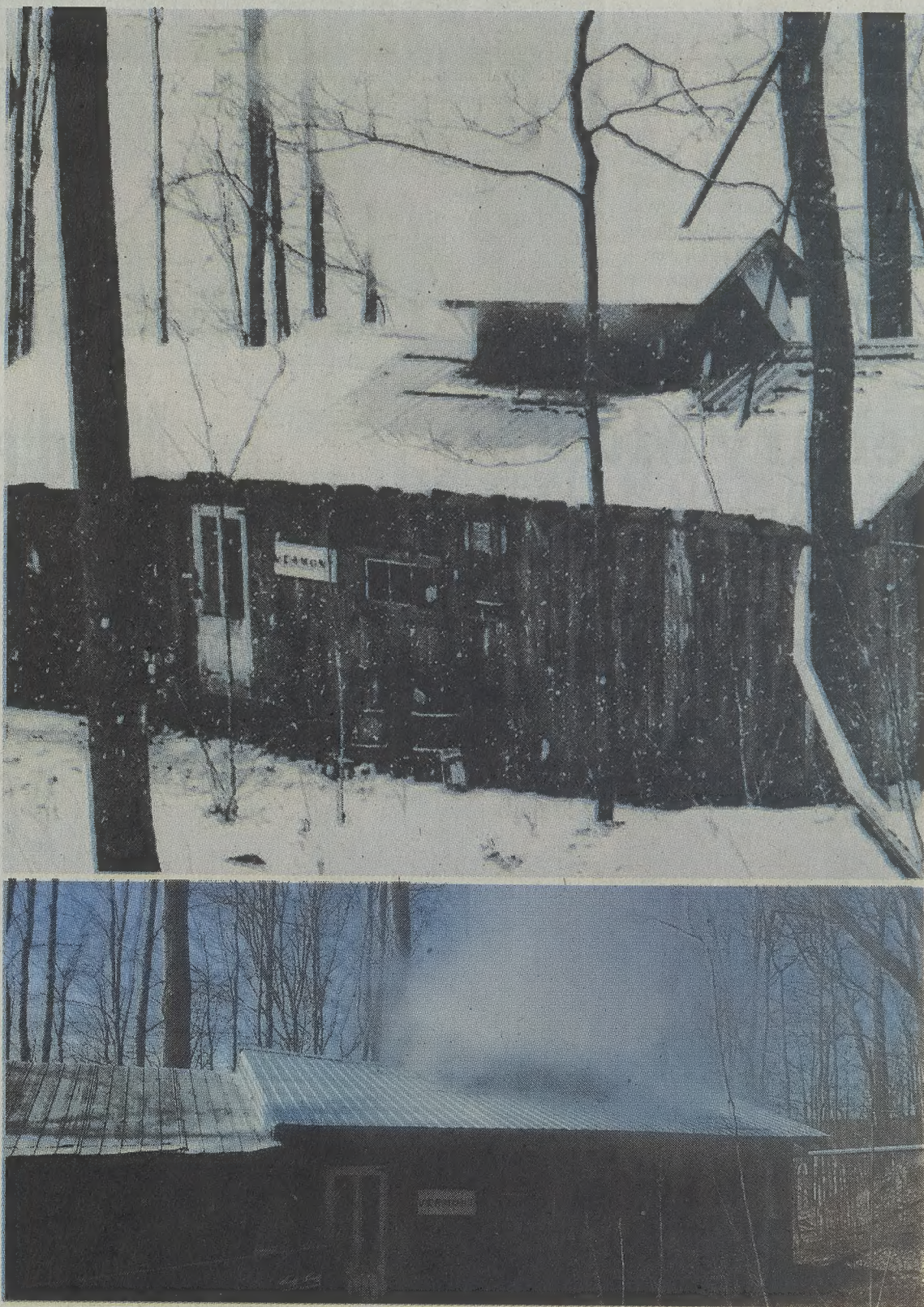
Seeley also discussed the sugaring process, adding that the size of a maple tree should approximately equal the size of the bucket with which it will be tapped. Some trees are so big that they can be tapped with three or four buckets. Two big maples, each about 200 years old, used to be tapped with seven buckets each by the Seeleys, he said. These trees are dying now, but over the years they have spread seeds and some big new trees are now growing nearby.

Seeley said he believes that a number of bigger maple trees have died because of property developments or runoff from salt on roads throughout the last few decades.

As the weather has changed, limiting the window for and ease of sugaring, technological advancements have allowed some sugarmakers to still produce the same amount of syrup as before, if not exceed it.

For Hescok, a vacuuming system has improved the efficiency of drawing syrup from trees, allowing them to tap more trees and expand their business, despite changes to the sugaring season.

"The vacuum system helps draw more sap out of each tree, especially



Scenes from Cota Brothers Maple Syrup in Monkton, Vt.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JACQUELINE CHASE

when there's not a good flow, due to the temperatures not reaching freezing the night before. When it freezes, there's an internal pressure in the trees and the syrup gushes out," Hescok said. The vacuum system either intensifies that pressure or creates it, he added.

Modern osmosis technology has also helped with sugaring. Reverse

osmosis accelerates syrup production by removing water from sap before it's put in a syrup evaporator. Vacuums and osmosis generally go hand in hand for sugaring, as increased production of sugaring caused by vacuuming makes reverse osmosis more useful. While this newer technology is becoming more common, it's far from universal.

Some sugarmakers rely exclusively on traditional methods, which in turn means they are less insulated from shifts in the sugaring season that might reduce syrup quantities. Warren Chase is a third generation sugarmaker at Cota Brothers Maple Syrup in Monkton, Vt. Cota Brothers Maple Syrup does traditional sugaring, meaning they don't use vacuums

or reverse osmosis, Chase explained. "We just have gravity and buckets," Chase said. After two years of bad crops, though, Chase said they

"Whenever you start sugaring, your family does it, it gets in your blood, you're a sugarmaker. You're always going to tend to do it, or if you aren't doing it, you're going to be helping someone else do it."

are considering purchasing vacuums.

"We don't necessarily make money from sugaring, it's more for fun, but we'd like to make a little more money from it, so we're thinking of getting vacuums," he said.

In addition to sugaring, Chase and his family members work a variety of professions as carpenters, beef herders and hay sellers.

Chase said sugaring is a spring-time hobby for his family, something that is relatively common in Vermont. "Whenever you start sugaring, your family does it, it gets in your blood, you're a sugarmaker. You're always going to tend to do it, or if you aren't doing it, you're going to be helping someone else do it," he said.

Indeed, many sugarmakers throughout Vermont are part of families that have been sugaring on a small scale for multiple generations. In addition to sugaring, many work as loggers and excavators, like those at Seeley Sugarworks, sell Christmas trees, roping, and wreaths, or grow peach trees in the summer, such as the Trade Winds sugarmakers.

When asked what his favorite and least favorite part of sugaring were, Seeley had a simple answer.

"I love doing it, I don't hate any part of it," he said. This attitude, combined with the hard work of sugarmakers, has kept the sugaring tradition alive and well in Vermont. As technology advances and seasons change, sugarmakers continue to make Vermont's delicious maple syrup.

Middlebury students spotlight startups in weekly newsletter “Bulletpitch”

By BLAISE SEIFER
Senior Sports Editor

It would be hard to find two students on campus who love entrepreneurship as much as Sam Segal '23 and Brett Perlmutter '24. Both students have started businesses at Middlebury and the two helped found MiddVentures, a club that fosters student entrepreneurship.

And what do you get when you put two entrepreneurs in the Segale room? Ideas. Lots and lots of ideas.

“We would have meals where we would sit down at 6:30 [p.m.] and rapid fire ideas at each other for two-and-a-half hours,” Perlmutter told *The Campus*. “Our friendship blossomed because of this shared love and passion.”

During one dinner in December, the two landed on perhaps their most exciting idea yet. Both were interested in the venture capital (VC) industry, and after a call Perlmutter had with a Middlebury alumnus, a lightbulb turned on.

“I had a call with an alumnus in venture capital and he said that, in order to break into the space, he used to source companies and send them to different VC firms,” Perlmutter explained. “But why limit it to VCs? If [Segal and I] are going to do that to break into the industry, why don’t we just send it out to everyone?”

Motivated by their affinity for startups, and an eagerness to alert others about what up-and-coming companies they had found, the two decided that they would write weekly profiles on startups. Enter Bulletpitch, a bulleted newsletter — think Sparknotes — that offers a thorough, yet digestible, analysis of one startup every Tuesday morning. One roadblock: In just a few weeks, Segal would head off to Copenhagen, his study abroad destination for the spring semester. And next fall, Perlmutter is headed to Israel to study abroad.

“It could not be worse timing,” Perlmutter laughed. “We’re operating in different time zones and completely virtually. But I think we’ve done a good job at squashing that and getting into a routine.”

On January 11, with a few thou-

sand miles separating Segal and Perlmutter, the two friends released their first Bulletpitch newsletter. In the span of a few weeks, concept turned to product. The first Bulletpitch edition spotlight-

“The most rewarding aspect is getting to connect with the founders of the companies we write about.”

ed Levels Health, a company that helps individuals track their metabolic health.

In the newsletter, Perlmutter and Segal covered all the basics of the startup — including its industry, year founded, company size and investors — along with their own take on its competitive advantages and risks. They also provided company comparisons and linked the founders’ profiles.

While other newsletters like ZFoundr and The Daily Dropout

also spotlight startups, Bulletpitch isn’t limited to Gen Z startups. The newsletter also hones in on one startup, instead of dozens, each week. Since their first newsletter release, Bulletpitch has accumulated hundreds of subscribers. A few notable VC firms have subscribed, such as Y Combinator, Battery and Antler.

The newsletter’s crowning achievement, though, is its open rate, which measures what percent of subscribers actually open the newsletter as opposed to immediately deleting it. The standard newsletter rate is about 20%, while Bulletpitch’s figure is 50–60% on average. If anything, it’s a testament to the loyal supporter base the newsletter has already accrued.

To date, Bulletpitch has spotlighted 12 startups, from BeReal, a social media platform, to Finless Foods, an alternative seafood company. Of the companies they’ve covered, 25% have raised more capital; others have added users, downloads, clients and revenue. The numbers don’t lie: Bulletpitch has a strong track record for sourcing growing companies.

“The most rewarding aspect is

getting to connect with the founders of the companies we write about,” Segal said. “We had a really cool conversation with the founder of Camber, who thought what we were doing was super cool and had great things to say about Bulletpitch. And through that, we learned so much more about her company.”

“These VC [firms] all want to know what the next big trend is ... there’s something to be said about this perspective on the startup world.”

On Tuesday, April 5, Bulletpitch emailed its quarterly update. The past few months have gone by quickly.

Over this period, Segal and Per-

lmutter say they’ve become more fluid in the writing process and have added other talking points in the newsletter — for instance, they now include the location and stage of the company.

As Segal and Perlmutter look ahead, one focus will be on marketing. So far, Bulletpitch has primarily relied on word-of-mouth, but increased social media presence and other marketing efforts are on the horizon.

One initiative that Bulletpitch plans to roll out is their Gen Z ambassador program, which Segal and Perlmutter announced in their quarterly update. Ambassadors would source college startups for Bulletpitch in return for perks, such as exclusive access to talks with founders and name recognition on the newsletters.

“These VCs all want to know what the next big trend is,” Perlmutter said. “There’s something to be said about this perspective on the startup world, and Segal and I are leaning into that with Bulletpitch.”

“Time is ticking. We’re only college-aged students for so long,” Segal added. “VCs really do value that college, Gen Z perspective and we want to make sure we act on it when it’s still relevant.”

The team may also look to involve other people down the line.

Segal and Perlmutter currently work 10–15 hours each on Bulletpitch a week, no easy feat given the litany of other commitments they juggle. At Middlebury, Segal studies architecture and economics, while Perlmutter is majoring in psychology. But despite their busy schedules, their perspective remains positive.

“We’re having so much fun with this,” Perlmutter said. “That’s been the biggest plus for me.”

This summer, Segal and Perlmutter both have internships in New York City, but in their free time, they will continue developing Bulletpitch.

“We’re really excited that this could go in so many different directions,” Perlmutter said. “Frankly, we don’t know what this is quite yet. We know we have something, but there are so many different ways this could hash out. All we can keep doing is having fun with writing the newsletters and continuing to expand our audience.”



Brett Perlmutter '24 (left) and Sam Segal '23 (right) are the co-founders of Bulletpitch.

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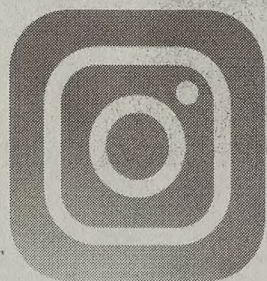
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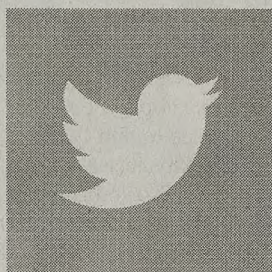
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Raymond Diaz '23 for SGA President

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

The Editorial Board of The Campus is proud and excited to endorse Raymond Diaz '23 for Student Government Association (SGA) president for the 2022–23 academic year. Diaz, who plans to appoint Evelyn Magdaleno '24 as his vice president, boasts an impressive background of campus leadership positions in organizations including JusTalks, ResLife and Distinguished Men of Color (DMC).

Each year, The Campus invites all SGA presidential candidates to speak to the Editorial Board for 15 minutes, giving them an opportunity to outline their platforms and answer questions. Our subsequent endorsement reflects who we as a board feel is best suited for the position. This year, we believe that person is Raymond Diaz.

Raymond has expressed a formidable commitment to continue working closely with students while on SGA. We believe that his experience as a student organization leader has allowed him to keep a pulse on the evolving wants and needs of our community and to facilitate difficult conversations that aren't always had when they need to be. Raymond's leadership within multiple groups on campus will help him to integrate varied viewpoints into SGA while using his pre-existing networks to initiate an array of events and projects.

Notably, Raymond has not served on SGA during his time at Middlebury thus far. However, we do not necessarily believe that this is a liability that will hinder the pursuit of his proposed platform — rather, we think that his outsider perspective has the potential to revitalize and energize an institution that often finds itself bogged down in bureaucratic channels. You can learn the logistical and administrative side

of SGA, but you can't teach the kind of charisma and self-assurance that Raymond exudes.

One way in which Raymond had proposed to improve the efforts of SGA is to send out frequent newsletters making clear what each committee is working on, in order to maximize transparency and communication to better unify the student body. In addition, Raymond has outlined a series of specific policy proposals that we believe have the potential to better the lives and experience of students. Namely, he announced a hope to permanently expand a Credit/No Credit grading option that offers genuine flexibility, citing that Pass/D/Fail is limited in its capacity to actually help students when they need it. He also expressed a desire to diversify and

We are inspired
by Raymond and
Evelyn's intention,
care and passion,
and we predict the
student body will
feel the same.

expand mental health resources, particularly emphasizing how these services must better meet the needs of BIPOC students. While we know that the ability of the SGA itself to implement these ideas — and to enact policy in general — is limited in scope, we have faith that Raymond and Evelyn will employ their unequivocal insight and energy to push SGA to its limits.

Additionally, we believe that what Raymond and Evelyn lack in SGA experience, they make up for with a broad and applicable wealth of knowledge. As two future educators with roots in the Education Studies department, they understand how different elements of educational institutions work, and how equity and accountability can be better achieved within a school setting.

All in all, this is not to say that



COURTESY OF RAYMOND DIAZ

Raymond Diaz '23 is running for SGA President.

this year's endorsement was easy or obvious. Raymond has a strong opponent in Aubrianna Wilson '23, a long-term member of SGA whose passion for accessibility, sexual health and mental health resources has shone throughout her time at Middlebury. Joined by fellow SGA veterans Karina Martir '24 and Meg Farley '24, Wilson's platform emphasizes community healing and the empowerment of marginalized students. We hope that if elected, Raymond will seek to integrate Aubrianna's visions and principles into his platform. Both candidates are first-generation students of color, and we are confident in either of their abilities to uplift and center students from underrepresented

populations.

Ultimately, we wholeheartedly believe that Raymond has built a strong framework of relationships across campus that will allow for cultural organizations and campus institutions to become more interconnected and accessible. His experience likewise demonstrates a critical skill set including excellent attention to detail, meticulous delegation skills and a tremendous capacity for compassionate listening.

We are inspired by Raymond and Evelyn's intention, care and passion, and we predict the student body will feel the same. The Campus is more than thrilled to endorse his candidacy.

Students: Take Zeitgeist 4.0, the newest edition of our student body survey.

The Campus is launching its fourth-annual Zeitgeist survey today. You can take the survey at go/zeitgeist and go/zg.

Nearly half of you took last year's survey. Your responses told us that more than two thirds of students have experienced impostor syndrome, making friends was the hardest part of acclimating as a first year, and 58% of students have broken the honor code.

But there's still more to ask.

This year, we have a new set of questions that gets to the heart of what defines Midd students. We want to know how much you sleep, why you seek out romantic relationships, whether or not you're satisfied with various campus resources,

and if you're happy.

Your answers will remain completely anonymous — data will only be processed by a small group of analysts and will never be shared with the administration, other clubs or academic departments. (For a list of precautionary measures we are taking, consult the consent form at the beginning of the survey.)

The survey closes on April 24th at midnight, and we'll publish our findings in a special edition later this spring. The data we collect will also shape our reporting for years to come. **At the end of the survey, you will have the chance to enter your name in a raffle to win nearly \$400 worth of Amazon gift cards.**

Take the survey at go/zeitgeist or go/zg

Ending endemic pay inequities

Op-Ed

Tim Parsons is the college's landscape horticulturist.

With luck, as a community we're moving to an 'endemic' phase of Covid-19. As a community though, it's time again to recognize the many endemic problems staff face at our institution, and talk about taking one or two off the plate before we add another.

Surveys from past years give a good list — rewards and recognition, struggling internal communications, the need for manager training, pathways for all to advance their career, a new performance review system, and more. The administration has recognized this for years, but with their limited time and resources right now, have chosen the most important — compensation.

Staff are learning now of our new compensation structure, replacing our old system of nearly 15 years. The focus on a market rate wage potentially will enable us to reach at least parity with our friends and neighbors. By adjusting for the market yearly, we will not be as far behind, even if it may not actively address systemic wage inequities found in the national and local labor market.

So it was in this atmosphere that I read with disappointment the Middlebury AAUP proposal to raise pay of all employees 10% next fiscal year. Everybody — faculty, staff— presumably even the administrators, al-

though unmentioned.

Yes, absolutely. Everybody deserves a raise. Coming out of Covid-19 with three years of only having an overall wage increase of 2% while inflation skyrockets is difficult. The administration, with their sleepless nights keeping employees paid and employed, and keeping our community whole. Faculty, learning new ways to educate. Teaching my winter term class this year, I saw first hand the difficulty of teaching remotely — and we were only remote for much of the first week. I can't imagine doing that as the faculty did mid-semester with the technology of two years ago. And staff, imagine doing our essential jobs of cooking meals, cleaning dormitories, keeping toilets flushing and the heat on, keeping our students safe and supported — and then adding Covid-19 disruptions. Everybody

Everybody deserves a raise, and even 10% seems too little.

deserves a raise, and even 10% seems too little.

But I question the timing of 10% for all. Maybe that's because it seems sometimes I don't work at the same institution as the faculty, with their inspiring and enviable education, academic freedom and faculty governance. I am employed by a multinational non-profit educational corporation, run by an Executive President, who reports to a board, who in turn reports to "shareholders" in the form of alumni. We produce value by manufacturing knowledge through words

and experiences. And like other corporations, we operate under constraints. Our board of trustees have mandated fiscal sustainability and capped our investment income from the endowment at 5%.

I'm not an economist, just a landscaper playing in the dirt, so I don't think I should wade into the competing philosophies and models of endowment draw percentages. Suffice it to say, as my sore back and I dream of retirement, advisors say to plan only drawing 4% of my retirement 'endowment,' so our board's choice of 5% seems safe, even with the promise of additional income making it seem a little low to some. Staff all too well see the crumbling infrastructure, rising food costs, greater need for financial aid, so we understand the multitude of competing needs. The 5% withdrawal is our current constraint, a number out of our hands as staff members. Given that, I make my plea to think of the most vulnerable while pushing for a larger conversation on budget allocations in the future. It's far too easy to throw money at short term solutions, far harder to reach financial sustainability for future generations.

Remember Tayler, my friend and staff colleague I wrote of last year? They did see an increase in pay, to a little over \$14 an hour, and no longer make weekly trips to the food shelf. Instead, grocery shopping involves the Hannaford sales flyer in one hand, Shaw's in the other, driving back and forth between stores to afford enough groceries. Seeing the AAUP Sense of the Faculty motion talk of 'buying power,' what would it be like to have real buying power for Tayler — discretionary income to spend on them and their child? A true cost of living ad-

justment for our working poor would be to give freedom of choice in their costs to live, not merely subsist.

Using a napkin instead of a spread-

Everyone deserves a raise. But let's prioritize. We're bleeding lower-wage staff and the remaining are working harder than ever.

sheet, I'd guess a 10% raise for all employees would be about \$14 million in just compensation funds, with more for benefits. Giving a 10% raise to just the first \$70,000 in income in an attempt to level the playing field and save some funds for compensating our lowest paid would still be about \$9 million, well north of anything I've seen for funding under current restraints next fiscal year. President Laurie Patton has acknowledged this, and has therefore committed to compensation fixes for the next several years.

I don't want to discount the finances of all of us post-pandemic. To be a young professor beginning their career with near crippling debt from their educational investment must be daunting, and needs to be recognized. But this 10% raise brings Tayler to \$15.50/ hour, well below the \$23/hour that the Center for Economic and Policy Research says would be the minimum wage had we been paying workers for productivity since

1968, and below the \$50,000/ year qualifying cap for affordable housing in the area. Colleen Norden and I raised these concerns with the AAUP, and were told that nothing was stopping the administration from doing more, but that 10% for all should be first priority. In the Faculty Council meeting, Professor of Economics and Environmental Studies Jon Isham proposed prioritizing those making \$70,000 and less as an amendment to the AAUP Sense of the Faculty supporting 10% across the board raises. The motion passed but the amendment was voted down. A 10% blanket raise for all will simply keep the unequal transfer of wealth as status quo for another year, and our lowest paid staff will fall further behind.

My price for speaking out will be being told I'm pitting faculty against staff, or worse, not listening. I'll say it again — everyone deserves a raise. But let's prioritize. We're bleeding lower-wage staff and the remaining are working harder than ever. There are over 13 openings in dining services, 25 or so in custodial, and many in facilities and elsewhere, leaving our institution and community vulnerable. Our budget is a reflection of our values, and as such we should consider our lowest paid workers first. We owe it to ourselves to do better. If I've learned anything working at Middlebury, it is our ability to bring resources to bear to address our most challenging problems. This is one.

My great thanks to Colleen Norden for her help in writing and editing this, and for her strong voice on behalf of all employees at Middlebury.

Compensate MiddView leaders to ensure the future of the program

Op-Ed

Jessica Buxbaum, Calin Laine and Anne Lofgren are members of the class of 2023.

This op-ed was originally sent as a letter to Dean of Students Derek Doucet and Assistant Director of Student Activities for Student Leadership and Development Erin Morrison. It has been lightly edited for brevity and clarity.

Dear Dean of Students Derek Doucet and Assistant Director of Student Activities for Student Leadership and Development Erin Morrison,

We are all writing to you as former Orientation Leaders with a great deal of interest in MiddView. We are juniors with fond memories of our own MiddView experiences, and we are passionate about giving new students similarly positive orientation experiences in the future.

MiddView has undergone significant changes over the last two years. The most dramatic change due to Covid-19 resulted in off-campus trips being replaced with excursion-style outings and on-campus orientation meetings and activities.

We imagine that the decision to not immediately transition back to overnight trips was due to this desire to improve MiddView, and to address valid, long-standing criticisms that MiddView trips focused too much on the outdoors, and, in that way, created an unwelcoming orientation environment for some incoming students who did not have background in or an affinity toward these kinds of activities. The orientation team, and college community as a whole, are right to respond to this criticism in order to prioritize accessibility and inclusivity as they work toward reimagining a post-Covid orientation program. However, as some of the students who have both experienced pre-Covid MiddView trips

and led post-Covid orientation groups, we are worried that some of the most important features of MiddView are being altered, while other issues with MiddView are going unaddressed.

First and foremost, the college needs to revisit regular compensation for its student leaders. We had a record breaking number of first year students matriculate into the classes of 2025 and 2025.5. In order to foster the close-knit environments of MiddView groups many leaders are so passionate about, the program needs more leaders. A stipend or salary is a fantastic incentive to encourage more leaders to apply to join the MiddView team. Other NESACs like Colby College pay their orientation leaders and appear to have found success doing so. (And are we really going to be beat out by... COLBY?!). Compensation would also remove significant financial barriers for students who cannot afford the opportunity cost of missing two weeks of summer work to return to school early. As MiddView staff has admirably championed the idea of fostering an equitable and inclusive environment for first-years, we believe it is vital to extend this privilege to the program's leaders as well. Not only would payment allow those passionate about MiddView an opportunity to assist in the program, but it would also diversify MiddView leadership so that the program can be more representative of the college as a whole, and better equipped to welcome each and every new student to Middlebury. Frankly, without payment for student leaders, any efforts by administration or by MiddView staff to prioritize inclusivity and accessibility in orientation will fall flat.

Further, the job of orientation leaders has changed dramatically over the last three years. In the past, student leaders were only responsible for leading trips over the new student weekend. Leaders are now responsible for helping students with registration, going over aspects of academic life at Middlebury, chaperoning activities in the evenings during orientation week and other duties that have traditionally fallen to ResLife staff (who are compensated for their work). While the administration has promised to look into fairly compensating these "invaluable" volunteer roles, we've been disap-



COURTESY OF ANNE LOFGREN

MiddView leaders welcome students from the class of 2024 to campus.

pointed that there has been no follow through on this front. As the position changes, it is only fair for the compensation to change, too.

Second, as the orientation program and the role of orientation leaders is in flux, we believe MiddView would benefit greatly from the formation of a student group to assist in creating MiddView's itinerary and structure post-Covid. This could take the form of a student organization with payment available for its executive team, a committee within SGA, a larger team of year-round student employment positions within the SAO dedicated to MiddView or something else we may not have considered. Currently, the only explicit student input into the creation of MiddView each year comes from a handful of student interns. But there are many more students who care about first-years' orientation experiences who have a wealth of insight, energy and creativity to contribute to the process of redesigning MiddView in a

post-Covid world.

Current juniors and seniors are the last classes with memories of MiddView trips as they once were. Even if there are elements of the old MiddView model that should be changed, there are also elements that students can help to preserve and adapt for the future. For many of the leaders we've spoken to, the most memorable and formative part of the orientation trips was getting to spend a significant amount of uninterrupted time with their small groups. This is something that simply can't be replicated by a week-long string of daily meetings or one-off day trips, but we are sure that many past leaders have ideas on how to improve the structure of MiddView in order to preserve important and cherished aspects of trips like this.

Students also have significant insight into the types of activities their peers would be most interested in and the types of training that are most effective. Hopefully this letter has made

it clear that there are extremely passionate students who want to help shape the program to be the best it can be.

MiddView has an extremely important role to play in building our community on campus, and in prioritizing accessibility, inclusivity and joy for all students. The program has the opportunity to introduce new students to their new classmates, their new college and to the whole state they will call home for four years in exciting and meaningful ways. We know that first impressions are important, so we hope that MiddView staff and the administration will take this chance — this pause that Covid has imposed upon us all — to acknowledge the important role of MiddView and its leaders, to follow through on past promises and to work with students in the future to build an orientation program that is the best it can be.

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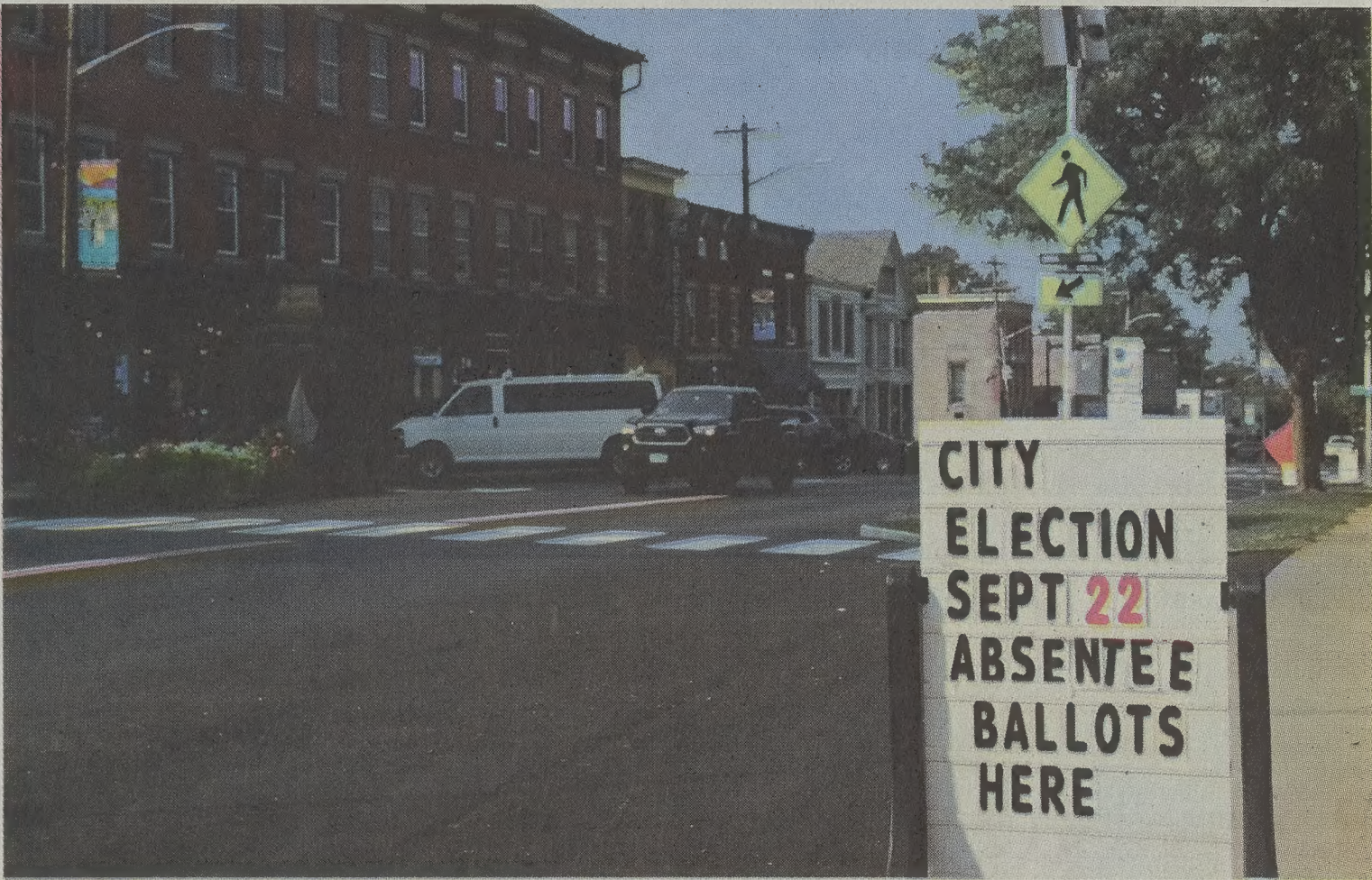
Reel Critic: “The Price of Safety”

By JACK TORPEY
Staff Writer

I recently had the opportunity to attend a screening in Dana Auditorium of “The Price of Safety,” a documentary feature about racially biased policing in the nearby Vermont city of Vergennes. The film presents an account of how an otherwise tranquil community was thrust into upheaval by the question of whether to reduce police funding and claims of racial prejudice among the city’s law enforcement personnel. Among those in the audience were the film’s director and former Middlebury College media producer, Chris Spencer, and his wife and producing partner, Assistant Professor of Economics Erin Wolcott. Joining them was Assistant Professor of International and Global Studies Amit Prakash, who is featured heavily in the film as an interviewee.

During a Q&A session following the screening, Spencer explained that the film’s inception traced back to his and Wolcott’s move to Vergennes in 2020. After hearing rumblings about racial injustice in the local police force, and then witnessing the outrage following George Floyd’s murder in Minneapolis, the pair knew they had to take action to bring the city’s story to light. What followed was a painstaking process of requesting interviews from townspeople who still viewed the newly-arrived couple as outsiders, raising money for the production through crowdfunding and shooting and editing the film — all during some of the most severe months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Wolcott revealed that it was difficult at times to gain the trust of the people of Vergennes, especially as she and Spencer were uncovering a story that could paint the idyllic Vermont city as one of the most racially biased in the country. It’s fair to say that after watching the film, not a single member of the audience doubted that the couple encountered tensions in the Vergennes community.

“The Price of Safety,” for all its non-fiction trappings, plays like



COURTESY PHOTO

a drama. Walking out of Dana after the screening, I overheard two members of the audience discussing how shocked they were at the depths of strife in the Vergennes population. There are community members taking passive-aggressive swipes at each other at city council meetings, public shamings and scenes of quarreling that you’d expect to see on a daytime TV courtroom drama. Spencer and Wolcott should be commended for finding such fruitful real-life subjects, a prerequisite for any effective documentary.

The film is more than just an entertaining watch, though; it is the timeliness of its thematic concerns that lends “The Price of Safety” its substance. The film creates a portrait of a city divided, with those on one side arguing for public oversight of the police force to monitor activity relating to racial bias and those of the opposition claiming that the Ver-

gennes police have done nothing to warrant the institution of an oversight committee. Surrounding this all is the issue of whether to decrease the budget allotted to the police force, which makes up a third of the city’s total spending.

These are topical matters, and Spencer does an excellent job of situating his story in the broader historical moment by employing a non-linear chronology to structure the narrative. The film begins in 2019 as the city council battles with its constituents over the budget problem. Spencer then shifts back to 2017 and introduces the first whisperings of racial bias in the Vergennes police force, using the findings of a report by University of Vermont Professor of Economics Stephanie Seguino to show how citizens began to question the activity of their law enforcement. The narrative finally jumps forward to the summer of 2020. It is then, in the wake of

national protests surrounding the murder of George Floyd, that the local government dissolves into chaos over the debate of whether to institute a police oversight board. By dragging us back and forth through time, raising one set of questions just before moving on to the next, Spencer recreates the sense of disorientation that the people of Vergennes must have felt themselves. The chronology is never confusing, but it is just dynamic enough to ground the audience in the volatility of the real-life narrative.

Technical prowess, however, is not all that defines “The Price of Safety.” At one point toward the middle of the documentary, Seguino, the author of the aforementioned report, proposes that since Vermonters tend to view themselves as a progressive and anti-racist people, facing a conflict of racial prejudice strikes an especially heavy blow to their

sense of identity. This same point is raised again at the end of the film, this time by Prakash, bringing the notion back to the audience’s attention just as the film comes to a close.

I am not a Vermonter, but after spending almost two years at Middlebury College, I can certainly vouch for the grounds of this proposal; anti-racism is a leading source of pride among the Vermont residents I have met or observed. By directly engaging the idea twice in just 59 minutes of runtime, Spencer and Wolcott seem to be warning that this pride can quickly morph into apathy. Once people believe they have transcended racism, they claim, initiative stalls, awareness dwindles and prejudice is permitted to resurface. This may have been what happened in Vergennes, a small, peaceful city only thirteen miles north of Middlebury. Let’s not let it happen here.

WRMC RADIO ROUNDUP: DJs WEIGH IN

By WRMC EXEC
BOARD & DJS

Have your Spotify playlists become stale? Is your weekly mix just not cutting it? Maybe it’s time to branch out and listen to something new. The Executive Board of WRMC, Middlebury College’s radio station, has selected a wonderfully wide range of albums, spanning time and genre, for your listening pleasure. Check back each week for a new set of recommendations.

*RIYL (recommended if you like)

DJ Pick — Mia Giaever ’24

Show: BOOGERS — Wednesdays

at 12 a.m.
Album: “Ivory” — Omar Apollo
Genre: Hip Hop, Pop
RIYL: Orion Sun, Choker, Dreamer Boy
Blurb: A mix of flirtatious acoustic, like “Petrified,” and upbeat tracks, like “Tamagotchi,” this album has a breezy, spring flingin’ mood to it. Very versatile listening—could easily accompany a study session, or an incredibly long shower.

Creative Director’s Pick — Pia Conteras ’22

Show: Highs and Lows of Life — Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
Album: “That’s Where I Am” — Maggie Rogers
Genre: Alternative
RIYL: Angel Olsen, Clairo, Holly Humberstone

Blurb: Ever since Maggie Rogers got the ultimate stamp of approval from famed producer Pharrell Williams while just a student at NYU working on her debut album, “Heard It In a Past Life,” her career has blossomed. This new single from her upcoming album “Surrender,” shows Rogers turning a corner in her sound. Like her new short haircut, “That’s Where I Am” is edgier and 90s-inspired, using Rogers’ production talents in a way that sounds entirely unlike all her previous work.

DJ Pick — Charlie Keohane ’24

Show: Witching Hour — Tuesdays at 10 a.m.
Album: “Tapestry” — Carole King
Genre: Soft rock, pop
RIYL: James Taylor, Carly Simon, Joni Mitchell

Blurb: If you’re a “Gilmore Girls” fan, you’ve already heard one of the many iconic songs off this album. With songs like the show’s theme “Where You Lead,” Carole King’s early 1970s album speaks of confidence and independence. From slower, soulful ballads like “Will You Love Me Tomorrow?” to more upbeat songs to dance to like “I Feel the Earth Move,” this album has stood the test of time.

DJ Pick — Rebecca Amen ’22

Show: Haha Aw Haha — Sundays at 2 p.m.
Album: “History of a Feeling” — Madi Diaz
Genre: Folk, indie, indie rock
RIYL: Waxahatchee, Tomberlin, Anais Mitchell
Blurb: In February, I went to the

Waxahatchee tour having never heard of the opener; I wish I could have appreciated Madi Diaz’s performance more in the moment, because two months later, I still find myself listening to her newest album. The record opens with an assortment of ballads that oscillate from heartbroken vocals, sometimes soft and sometimes belted, to electrically angry guitar lines, each song giving poignant definition to a breakup. After the self-reflective, self-discovering transitional track “Woman In My Heart,” the remaining songs are full of emotional nuance, suggestive of tenderly opening oneself up to love and being vulnerable again and yet being saddled with events of the past, for better or for worse. Truly a history of a feeling, this album is perfectly personal and versatile.





COURTESY OF WILL COSTELLO

Niki Mormile '23 (right) faces off against a player from Trinity.

ON A ROLL: NO. 1 RANKED WOMEN'S LACROSSE IMPROVES TO 12-0

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Sports Editor

There must be something in the water at Middlebury that makes women's stick sports so dominant.

After the field hockey team enjoyed a 22-0 season this fall and women's hockey tallied a 27-0 record this winter, the women's lacrosse team is off to a great start this spring with a 12-0 record. Unsurprisingly, their dominant performances on the field have earned them the No. 1 rank in Division III. The Panthers have undoubtedly had a tough schedule this season, facing seven nationally-ranked sides. In spite of these challenges, the team has scored in the double digits in every one of their games to date.

Women's lacrosse has a rich and decorated history. With seven na-

tional championships in their trophy cabinet and ten NESCAC titles, the team is consistently a juggernaut in Division III. The Panthers have recorded four undefeated seasons, the most recent of which was in 2004. This year, the team hopes to make it five.

After starting off strong with a 19-12 win over conference rivals Bowdoin, the Panthers recorded big wins over Connecticut College and Babson. The team only got better from there, winning by greater margins before tallying a season-best 22 goals in a rout of Plymouth State University. The Panthers faced their toughest test yet this past Saturday on a rainy day at Kohn Field, coming from behind to beat Wesleyan, 12-11. Niki Mormile '23 scored the winning goal two minutes before time expired. The Panthers returned to their typical dominance on Sunday in a 16-7 win over Hamilton.

Attackers Jane Earley '23 and

Hope Shue '25 have led the Panthers' scoring exploits this season, tallying 39 and 29 goals, respectively. Earley currently leads the NESCAC in goals, while Shue set a league-high seven goals in one game in the win over Hamilton. Other stat leaders for the team include Lily Riseberg '22 (assists), Annie Enrietto '23 (ground balls), Kylie Wilson '25 (caused turnovers), and Erica Barr '22.5 (draw controls).

With the electric pace the team has been playing at this season, one could easily forget that the Panthers have not had a proper season since they captured the national title back in 2019. With the global pandemic looming over the Middlebury campus last spring, only four of the team's players remained on campus for the spring semester, including Kate Burke '24.

"It's super exciting to finally have a season," Burke said. "It felt like we were just having preseason

over and over again so everyone is just excited to be on the field."

The lack of game experience in recent years does not seem to have fazed the Panthers at all. Burke pointed to the excellent leadership on the team as a key factor in the team's ability to hit the ground running in the wake of the pandemic.

"We have amazing leadership," Burke said. "Our head coach has won a ton of awards, our captains have done a great job setting a high bar for the team, and we have leaders in all grades and positions, which is really cool to see."

Middlebury now turns their attention to the final three games of the season, all of which are key fixtures against NESCAC opposition. Colby stands out as a tough matchup for the Panthers, as the Mules are currently 10-1 and ranked sixth in Division III.

"It sounds a little strange, but we've talked about approaching

every game as underdogs," Burke added. "We know every team is coming for our number one spot and is going to bring their best, so we just have to maintain that idea of grittiness and keep our energy moving forward."

Burke also highlighted the sense of community and camaraderie within the team as a key element of the team's success.

"I feel like I'm honoring the tradition of those who came before me," Burke said, adding that many of the alumni still visit for games and practices and get to know the current players. "It's just really special to get to play with a group of girls who love playing, and who are dedicated to the game and to each other. At the end of the day it's not about winning, it's about playing the sport we all love."

Women's lacrosse faces Colby on Kohn Field this Saturday at noon. The event will also mark the team's senior day.

Club badminton continues to grow and serve all

By OWEN PARK
Contributing Writer

Middlebury Club Badminton is an up-and-coming program at the college that prides itself on an inclusive environment through open-door practices and a flexible training schedule. Members and non-members alike are free to walk onto any available court, pick up a racquet and shuttlecock and start playing a game. Rather than club leadership dictating the agenda for each practice, Club Badminton lets its players choose how they will spend their time playing badminton — from working on specific skills and techniques to playing casual matches. Members hail from a wide range of skill levels, meaning that one can always find a partner and hone their skills.

Giving players the ability to decide their own schedules fosters a growth-oriented environment where veterans and newcomers alike can develop their badminton skills at their own pace. Playing in an environment that emphasizes learning over competition also allows players to interact and train with one another more freely. Veteran players are eager to help newcomers in learning how to play the sport.

"For those that want to learn the sport, it's a great environment," said Sophie Ashworth '24, one of the club's co-presidents. "You get out what you put in."

Middlebury Badminton Club prides itself on an inclusive environment through open-door practices as well as an absence of a rigid training schedule that is used by many other athletic clubs. Members and non-members alike are free to walk onto any available court, pick up a racquet and shuttlecock, and to start playing a game right away. Rather than club leadership dictating the agenda for each practice, Club Badminton lets its players choose how they will spend their time playing badminton—from working on specific skills and techniques to playing casual matches. Members hail from a wide range of skill levels, meaning that one can always find a partner to play and hone their skills with.

The sport itself also allows students to get to know other players quickly. Especially during doubles matches, players are given the opportunity to bond with their opponents or teammate over the game at hand.

"Playing with an unfamiliar face forces you to get to know your teammate on a personal level very quickly," Ashworth said. "When I'm playing a doubles match, telling my teammate 'I need your help

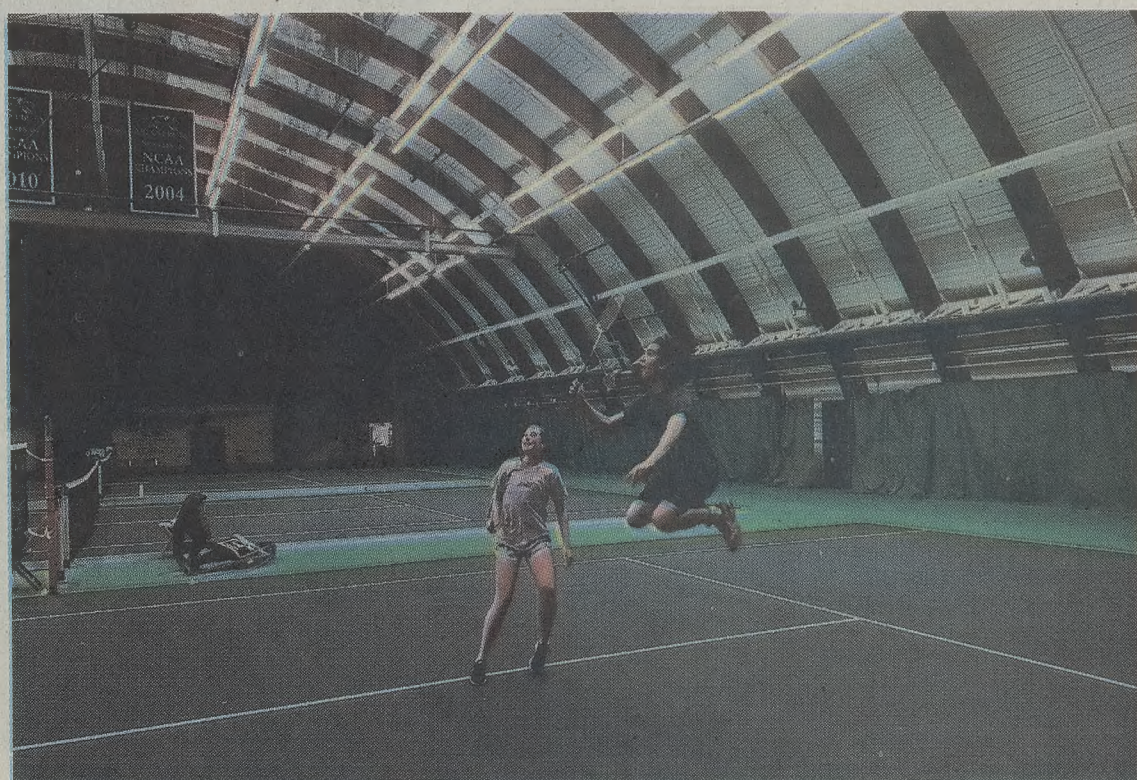
here' or 'I can't do this' creates an implicit sense of trust and camaraderie between us."

Club Badminton has not played any competitive matches this year and it doesn't pressure itself to do so — at least not in the near future. Rather than concerning itself with

traveling to other schools that are hours away, Ashworth stated that club leadership is focused on cultivating interest within the Middlebury student body. Plans for larger events such as a future intra-Middlebury badminton tournament, open to all students regardless of

membership, are being floated as next steps to attracting more students to the club.

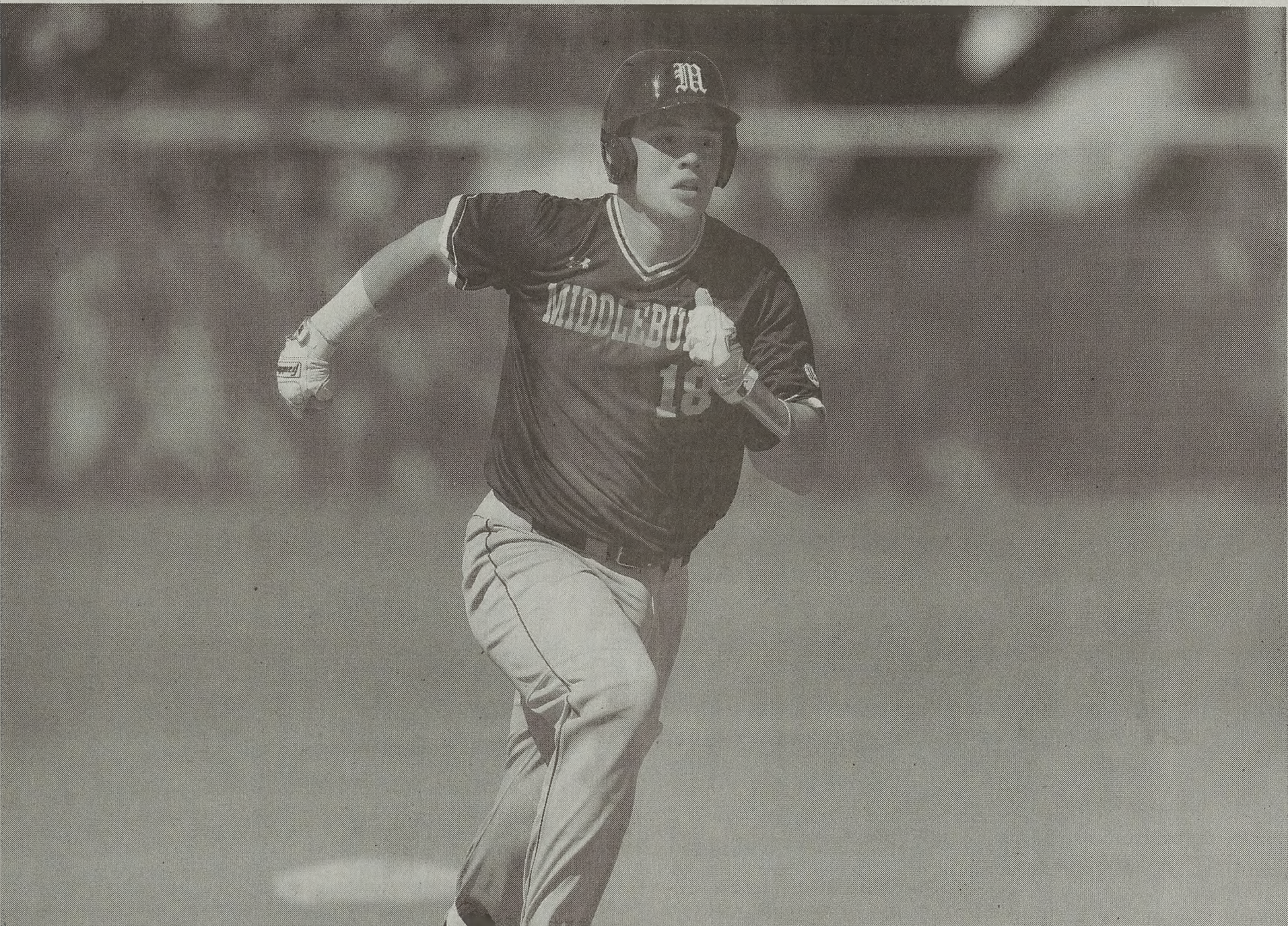
"I feel like the people I've met through badminton are those that I would never have met otherwise," Ashworth remarked. "I'm grateful for them."



COURTESY OF SOPHIE ASHWORTH '24

Jon Jon March '23.5 (right) elevates for a shot during practice on Tuesday, April 12.

John Collins '23.5 sets the standard for men's baseball



COURTESY OF MIDDLEBURY ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

John Collins '23.5 currently leads the men's baseball team in runs (14) and hits (18), sporting a .340 batting average.

By **LEXI LINAFELTER**
Staff Writer

With Drake playing over the loudspeakers, heads turn as John Collins '23.5 approaches the plate sporting a pair of neon pink cleats. Off to a fast start this spring, the catcher on men's baseball leads the NESCAC with six home runs on the season. He also sits first on the team in runs (14) and hits (18) on a .340 batting average.

"What makes him special is his power," said Sammy Smith '24, a

teammate of Collins. "Balls sound different off his bat and [he] has hit some of the farthest home runs I've ever seen."

Collins is a linchpin on the field for men's baseball, but his contribution to the team culture is equally as important. Collins prioritizes the fun of the game and enjoys every second on the field, whether that's by making his teammates laugh in the dug-out, sharing in the excitement of the little things or chasing school records. Motivated by his love for the game, Collins' attitude lifts his teammates up.

Smith commented on his admiration for Collins as a teammate, discussing his ability to stay level

headed and find ways to make the team better. According to Collins,

"What makes him special is his power. Balls sound a lot different off his bat and John hits some of the farthest home runs I've ever seen."

his secret to success lies in his ability to stay relaxed and play

baseball like he's a kid.

After an up-and-down performance over spring break in Florida, when the team went 3-5, the Panthers have since found their rhythm. Collins' hitting success has been key in the past few weeks, propelling the team to wins over RPI, Hamilton, Castleton, Union and Colby.

Looking forward, the Panthers have their sights set on securing a NESCAC championship. The last time Middlebury won the championship was in 2006, but Collins expressed nothing but confidence in this group's ability to perform as a young, talented team. He hopes to use all of the lessons they've learned so far this season

to push for the NESCAC title.

With the postseason on the horizon, Collins said he "feels really good about [the team's] preparation and what [they've] learned so far; at this point it's just about trusting it." The team is also on pace to achieve its goal of beating the school record for home runs in a single season (the team currently has 27, chasing a school record of 37 set in 1998).

Up next, Collins and the Panthers take on Williams in a three-game home series at Forbes Field. The team plays on Friday at 4 p.m. and then at 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

PFL Weekly Ep. 7: Men's tennis ranked No. 4 in country, women's golf spring preview, club sports update

By **BLAISE SIEFER, ELI DIBARI, MARCO FENGLER, CAPTAIN RUDOLPH & CAROLINE HARDING**

After beginning the year unranked, men's tennis was just ranked fourth in Division-III by the ITA. The team just defeated No. 18 Amherst and Hamilton and is showing no signs of slowing down! In other news, the PFL Weekly crew features the women's golf team, who will tee off on their spring season this weekend at the Vassar College Invitational. Eli also recaps Middlebury's club sports teams and their recent accomplishments. In case that didn't sell you, Marco's stat of the week is about... discipline?! Check out this action-packed episode!



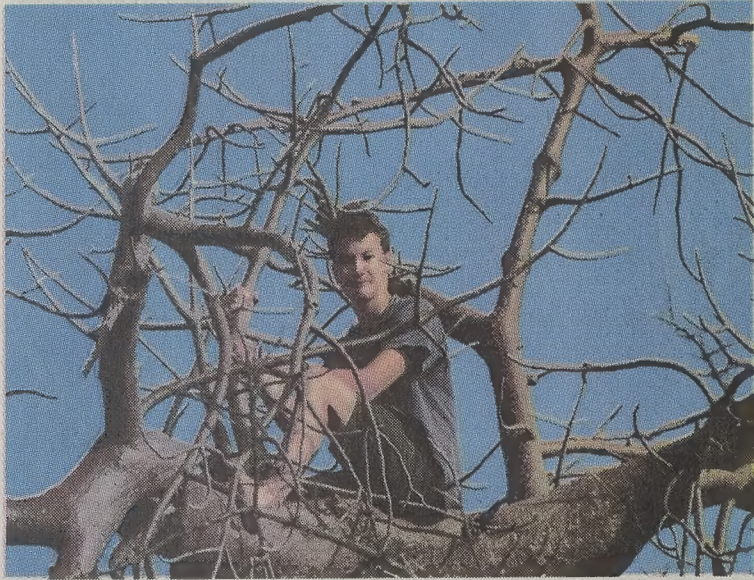
Listen to the PFL Weekly podcast on Spotify

PHOTOGRAPHER SPOTLIGHT: DYLAN SCHMELING

By ATTICUS COATES
Photojournalist

Dylan Schmeling '24.5, a Biology and Physics double major and an international student, finds inspiration in his home country of Tanzania. Working at his art for 12 years, he's been influenced by famous wildlife photographer Paul Nicklen and portraitist Martin Schoeller. Dylan's photography shows the Tanzanian countryside, and thus documents the people,

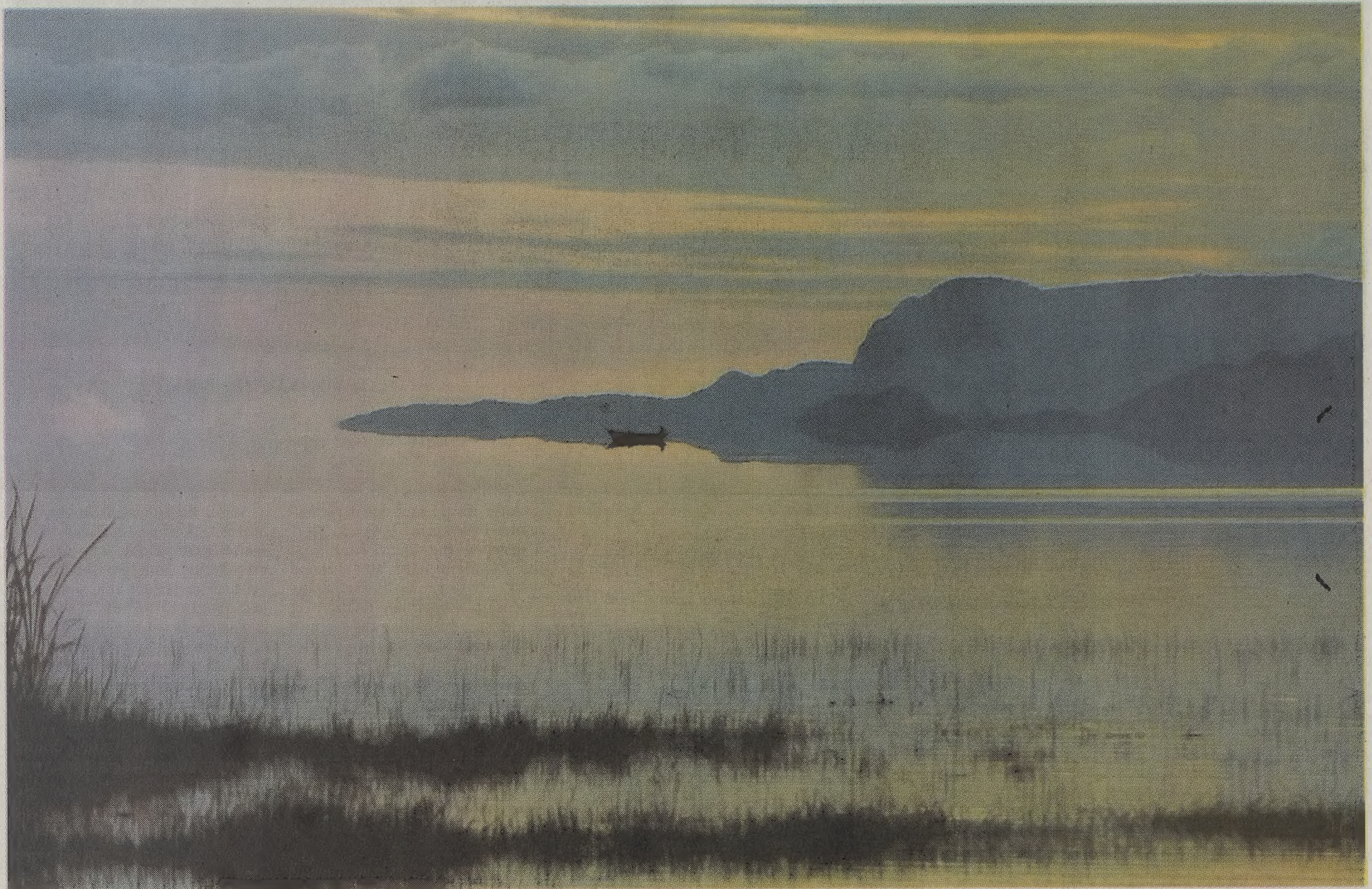
animals and landscape he grew up around. He takes photos as a scientist would, capturing the infinitesimal moment with an objective eye. His work shows us a way of life and an environment that is increasingly threatened by contemporary society. Concerned about unsustainable practices across the world, he is a member of the Middlebury Environmental Council. The people shown in the photos are Hadza- one of the last hunter-gatherer tribes in East Africa. They are also Dylan's friends and neighbors, individuals he had the privilege of growing up with and learning from.



Dylan at the top of a Baobab tree.



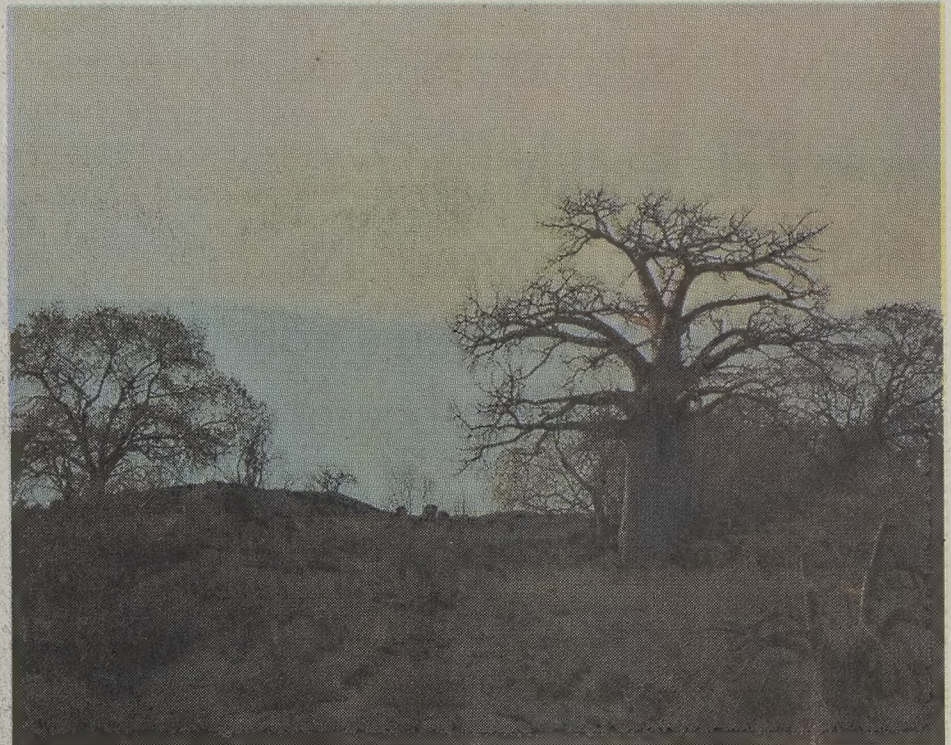
Two Hadza men prepare arrows in the afternoon.



A fisherman on Lake Eyasi.



Giraffes in the Serengeti.



A Baobab tree at sunset.



Pelicans on Lake Eyasi.



Hadza men around a fireplace.



"Toothpick" the elephant in Tarangire National Park.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF DYLAN SCHMELING